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REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

September 5, 2001 - 9:00 A.M.

COURTHOUSE EXECUTIVE CENTER

2145 14TH AVENUE

VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

JULIE L. DOHERTY, RPR

COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

- 1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
- 2 SENATOR LEE CONSTANTINE
- 3 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN
- 4 SENATOR RON KLEIN
- 5 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.
- 6 SENATOR BILL POSEY
- 7 SENATOR KEN PRUITT
- 8 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER
- 9 REPRESENTATIVE BOB ALLEN
- 10 REPRESENTATIVE FRANK ATTKISSON
- 11 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL
- 12 REPRESENTATIVE GASTON I. CANTENS
- 13 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART
- 14 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE FASANO
- 15 REPRESENTATIVE MARK G. FLANAGAN
- 16 REPRESENTATIVE GAYLE B. HARRELL
- 17 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD L. JENNINGS, JR.
- 18 REPRESENTATIVE BEV KILMER
- 19 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD MACHEK
- 20 REPRESENTATIVE STAN MAYFIELD
- 21 REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA L. MURMAN
- 22 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN
- 23 REPRESENTATIVE LESLIE WATERS
- 24 REPRESENTATIVE DOUG WILES

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1 Following my brief remarks, counsel will give a  
2 general overview of legal considerations in redistricting.  
3 Staff will then provide some specific information about the  
4 census results in this region and the state. The rest is  
5 reserved for you, the citizens.

6 Every ten years after completion of the updated  
7 national census, the Constitution requires the Florida  
8 Legislature to redraw boundaries of all the districts of  
9 the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate  
10 and Florida's Congressional districts. The Legislature  
11 will take up this task in the next legislative session  
12 which begins January 22nd, 2002 and ends March 22nd, 2002.  
13 The districts we draw will first be used in the November  
14 2002 elections.

15 Redistricting is the central element of our  
16 representative democracy. We take this on with humility  
17 and due regard for the importance of the difficulty of the  
18 job. We are also committed that the process will be fair  
19 and open and inclusive. These public hearings present --  
20 represent a first critical step in that process.

21 We appreciate that we are doing the work of the  
22 people. We want to hear from you and help you participate  
23 in a meaningful way. To encourage public participation,  
24 Senate President John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney  
25 have scheduled at least 22 public hearings throughout the  
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: I'm Daniel Webster from Senate
- 3 District 12 and I'm the chairman of the Senate Committee on
- 4 Reapportionment. We have divided these hearings up between
- 5 the House and the Senate. Sometimes the House is the chair
- 6 and sometimes the Senate. In this particular one the
- 7 Senate is chairing the committee so that's my job. It is
- 8 my pleasure to welcome you to this public hearing, one of
- 9 many we will be holding through the summer and fall
- 10 throughout Florida.
- 11 Let me first explain the procedure we will be using
- 12 throughout these public hearings. This is a public
- 13 hearing, the sole and only purpose of which is to hear from
- 14 the public on matters of redistricting. This is not a
- 15 committee meeting. We will not be taking legislative
- 16 action in this or any subsequent public hearing.
- 17 Instead, this is the public's forum where we have the
- 18 opportunity to receive citizen input about their electoral
- 19 districts. This is not a time for legislative debate. All
- 20 Representatives and Senators will have numerous
- 21 opportunities in subsequent committee hearings and floor
- 22 debates to address all the members' concerns and wishes.
- 23 Today, however, is for our constituents. We must not
- 24 diminish their voice by taking up their valuable time today
- 25 in debate.

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1 state. All members of the Legislative Redistricting  
2 Committee as well as the local delegation members have been  
3 invited to these hearings.

4 The House and Senate have designated web sites as a  
5 tool for public input and will broadcast select hearings on  
6 Florida public television stations. The web address for  
7 the House and Senate legislative redistricting are  
8 available at the information sign-in table. A link also  
9 will be available from the Florida legislative web site.

10 The redistricting plan for the State House and State  
11 Senate will be passed in the form of a joint resolution and  
12 will not be subject to the Governor's approval or veto, but  
13 will be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. The plan  
14 for redistricting the Congressional districts will not be  
15 reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court, but will be subject  
16 to the Governor's approval or veto.

17 I encourage everyone to carefully review the 2000  
18 census. It is the essential building block on which  
19 Florida's redistricting plans will be built. The address  
20 for the U.S. Census web site is available at the  
21 information table.

22 We are here to listen and consider your voice. We  
23 encourage each member of the public to testify and help us  
24 craft your legislative districts. We also encourage  
25 written submissions in addition to the public testimony  
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1 during the public hearing.  
2 Everyone wishing to speak must fill out a speaker's  
3 card. That is the only way which we will know who wishes  
4 to speak, and after the hearing who actually spoke.  
5 Speaker cards are available at the sign-in table. We want  
6 to hear from as many people as possible; therefore, we must  
7 limit your comments to four minutes.  
8 On behalf of Senate President John McKay and House  
9 Speaker Tom Feeney and the members of the Florida  
10 Legislature, I look forward to working with all of you on  
11 this historic and important task.  
12 At this time I will recognize former Senator Jim  
13 Scott, who served during the previous reapportionment  
14 process and is Senate lead counsel on reapportionment and  
15 redistricting. Senator Scott.  
16 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And as  
17 Chairman Webster has indicated, I'm special counsel for the  
18 Florida Senate for redistricting and reapportionment. And  
19 I'm here with one of the House counsel, George Meros today.  
20 And Michael DeGrandy, who is the lead counsel, is ill  
21 today.  
22 As the chairman has stated, redistricting every ten  
23 years, redistricting or reapportionment comes along and it  
24 is the responsibility of the Florida Legislature. This  
25 year because Florida's population has increased over the  
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1 last ten years, Florida will have two additional members in  
2 the United States Congress, a total of 25. The State  
3 Legislature therefore will need to create 25 contiguous  
4 districts for the people of Florida.  
5 Now, what we are trying to do today is just to give a  
6 brief overview of the legal requirements for the members --  
7 and I know that some of you have heard this before so try  
8 not to go to sleep -- but for the members of the public  
9 primarily today.  
10 The Legislature has 120 House members and 40 Senators.  
11 And that's the job that we will have to do is to redraw  
12 those seats. Now, the legislative session is in January  
13 and goes until March. At the end of that session, if there  
14 is not a redistricting plan then the Governor would call  
15 the Legislature back and reconvene a special session which  
16 would not exceed 30 days.  
17 If that session ends without the adoption of a  
18 redistricting plan, then the Attorney General would ask the  
19 Florida Supreme Court to commence deliberations on a plan.  
20 If during the session, a plan is adopted by the  
21 Legislature, then that plan, as the chairman stated, goes  
22 to the Florida Supreme Court for its review. The plan for  
23 Congressional redistricting goes to the Governor for his  
24 review and approval or veto.  
25 If the Florida Supreme Court when it reviews the  
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1 legislative plan determines it not to be valid, then the  
2 court allows the Legislature to reconvene and the Governor  
3 will reconvene the Legislature in an extraordinary session  
4 of not more than 15 days to adopt a plan.  
5 In adopting a redistricting plan, the Legislature will  
6 be guided by several factors including the principle of one  
7 person, one vote and the requirements of the Florida  
8 Constitution and the United States Constitution and Federal  
9 statutes.  
10 One person, one vote, the idea of that was developed  
11 in a series of landmark cases from the United States  
12 Supreme Court in the 1960s. Generally this principle  
13 stands for the proposition that each person's vote should  
14 count as much as anyone else's vote. These cases embody a  
15 reaction against the practice in several states of  
16 maintaining districts for state legislative offices that  
17 were substantially different in population. For example,  
18 an urban district with one House member might have 250,000  
19 people; whereas, a more rural district would contain only  
20 75,000 people.  
21 The Supreme Court concluded that these types of  
22 differences in district populations resulted in each vote  
23 in the district with the smaller population carrying more  
24 weight than a vote in the larger district. The one person,  
25 one vote cases forbid these discrepancies in the creation  
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1 of districts.  
2 However, neither the Constitution nor the Supreme  
3 Court requires exact nor precise mathematical equality  
4 amongst Congressional districts or amongst state  
5 legislative districts. However, for Congressional  
6 districts the courts have instituted the strictest  
7 standard. Also, a rule of thumb, the population amongst  
8 different districts in one state in Congressional districts  
9 would be substantially less than 1 percent.  
10 In other words, if you take the state's total  
11 population and divide it by the number of Congressional  
12 districts, the result would give you an ideal size for each  
13 Congressional district in the state. And typically  
14 Congressional districts would be well within 1 percent of  
15 this figure.  
16 For state legislative districts the courts have  
17 permitted a greater deviation amongst districts. The  
18 courts have accepted differences between districts of up to  
19 10 percent in certain circumstances.  
20 The Voting Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection  
21 Clause of the United States Constitution have become over  
22 the course of the last 30 years important elements of any  
23 legislative deliberations regarding redistricting.  
24 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any  
25 practice or procedure, including certain redistricting  
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1 practices, that impairs the ability of a minority community  
2 to elect candidates of choice on an equal basis with  
3 nonminority voters.

4 Florida is also one of the states that contains  
5 jurisdictions that are subject to review under Section 5 of  
6 the Voting Rights Act. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act  
7 requires that the covered jurisdiction submit, prior to the  
8 implementation, any proposed change to their practices or  
9 procedures affecting voting, including any changes to  
10 election districts resulting from the redistricting  
11 process.

12 These are submitted for approval by either the  
13 Attorney General of the United States or the federal  
14 district court for the District of Columbia. This process  
15 is known as preclearance. In Florida, the covered  
16 jurisdictions include the counties of Collier, Hardee,  
17 Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe.

18 The vast majority of preclearance requests are made to  
19 the Attorney General's Office and that's what we would plan  
20 to do in Florida. Preclearance is obtained if the Attorney  
21 General affirmatively indicates that the office has no  
22 objection to the change or if at the expiration of 60 days  
23 no objection has been submitted by the Attorney General.

24 Either through the courts or the Attorney General's  
25 office the covered jurisdictions bear the burden of  
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1 demonstrating that the proposed voting change does not have  
2 the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or  
3 abridging the right to vote on account of race or color or  
4 membership in a language minority group. And this is in  
5 Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 1973C.

6 In conclusion, the legal rules regarding the  
7 redistricting and reapportionment process are somewhat  
8 complicated and unfortunately this short presentation only  
9 scratches the surface of some of the rather delicate legal  
10 issues, some of which have not been fully decided by the  
11 courts.

12 Mr. Chairman, and members, I together with my House  
13 colleague stand ready to provide you with any assistance  
14 that you might need in this hearing or throughout the  
15 process. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Senator Scott.

17 At this time I'd like to recognize John Guthrie of the  
18 Senate redistricting committee staff who will give us some  
19 pertinent information and a brief presentation about the  
20 2000 census. Mr. Guthrie.

21 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you, Chairman Webster, members of  
22 the committee.

23 For the purpose of this presentation, I am going to be  
24 showing some graphics on the screen which is located  
25 between the panel here. What we are going to be doing is  
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1 briefly overviewing some of the facts and figures from the  
2 2000 census as they pertain to redistricting. The key fact  
3 that all of us need to recognize is that Florida is a  
4 rapidly growing state. Between 1990 and 2000, Florida's  
5 total population increased by more than 3 million people or  
6 23.5 percent. The population of the state is now  
7 approximately 16 million people.

8 As a result of this population growth, Florida's  
9 delegation in the United States House of Representatives is  
10 going to increase by two members, from 23 to 25 members of  
11 the United States House of Representatives.

12 The other key fact that we need to keep in mind in  
13 looking at census figures for the state of Florida is that  
14 growth has not been uniform. Some areas of the state have  
15 grown very rapidly, whereas others have grown more slowly.

16 For instance, Flagler County, a little bit north of  
17 here, grew at a rate of 73.6 percent during the past ten  
18 years; Sumter County grew at a rate of 69 percent; Collier  
19 County, 65 percent; and Wakulla County, 61 percent; Osceola  
20 County, a little to the west, grew at a rate of 60 percent  
21 during the past ten years.

22 At the other end of the scale, Monroe County, the  
23 slowest growing county in Florida, grew at a rate of only  
24 2 percent between 1990 and 2000. Pinellas and Putnam  
25 Counties grew at a rate slightly higher than 8 percent and  
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1 Gadsden County, near Tallahassee, grew at a rate of about  
2 10 percent. All other Florida counties grew at a rate of  
3 10 percent or higher.

4 Now let's look at some of the statistics for the local  
5 area. In Indian River County the population increased by  
6 25 percent, slightly more than the state average, to a  
7 total of 112,947. Brevard County, the population increased  
8 by 19 percent, a little bit less than the state average,  
9 and is now about 476,000 people. Brevard County now ranks  
10 9th among Florida's 67 counties.

11 St. Lucie County to our south increased at a rate of  
12 28 percent during the past ten years to a total of 193,000  
13 people, and it now ranks 22nd among Florida's 67 counties.  
14 And Okeechobee County to the west, the population increased  
15 at a rate of 21 percent to 36,000 people. It now ranks  
16 45th among Florida's 67 counties.

17 Osceola County, which we mentioned earlier, grew at a  
18 very rapid rate of 60 percent during the past ten years,  
19 primarily in the Kissimmee area, and its population is now  
20 172,000 people, ranking 23rd among Florida's 67 counties.

21 As Senator Scott mentioned, the whole basis for taking  
22 the census is to provide for equal representation, not only  
23 with Congressional districts but also with Senate and House  
24 districts in Florida.

25 Districts that currently have too many people based on  
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1 the 2000 census, that is, based on whether it grew faster  
2 or slower than the state average during the past ten years,  
3 will need to become smaller. Districts that have  
4 substantially too few people are going to need to gain  
5 territory in order to come up to the correct population.

6 The average district's population for Congressional  
7 districts in Florida in 1990, based on the 1990 census, was  
8 562,519. This has increased based on the 2000 census to  
9 639,295, an increase of about 14 percent.

10 For Senate and House districts, the population based  
11 on the '90 census was 323,00 and 108,000 persons,  
12 respectively. And these numbers have grown by 23.5  
13 percent, the same rate of growth as the state average, to  
14 400,000 and about 133,000, respectively, for Senate and  
15 House districts.

16 This graphic shows the number of people per district  
17 in Florida, the aqua color showing what the population was  
18 for Congressional, Senate and House districts based on the  
19 1990 census, the blue color showing what the number of  
20 people per district is based on the 2000 census.

21 And what you see is that because Florida gets the two  
22 additional seats in the United States Congress, the  
23 difference, the proportional difference is a little bit  
24 less for Congressional districts than it is for the Senate  
25 and House.

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1 Now let's look at the local area again. And this  
2 graphic shows the change in population density during the  
3 past ten years. What we see is the areas that are blue are  
4 areas that grew substantially more rapidly than the state  
5 average; areas that are red are areas where the density is  
6 substantial -- the change in density is substantially less  
7 than the state average.

8 And what you see is that with the exception of the  
9 inner city areas, the inner city areas tended to grow less  
10 quickly or to lose population; whereas, the suburban areas  
11 grew more rapidly.

12 This graphic shows the same sort of information except  
13 instead of looking at density it looks at the relative  
14 change in population; that is for every part of the state  
15 whether it grew or lost population. And so you see for the  
16 rural areas in particular that there was a substantial  
17 percentage growth in population; whereas, the downtown  
18 areas tended to not keep up with the state average in  
19 population growth.

20 Now how does this all apply to the Congressional  
21 districts, Senate districts and House districts that are in  
22 place now as we face redistricting in the coming year?  
23 This graphic, which also is available on the handout table  
24 on a statewide basis, shows that for Congressional District  
25 15, the population is currently 79,000 too great for what  
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1 the average district population will be based on the 2000  
2 population. That is, in order to come to equal population,  
3 District 15 will need to lose 79,000 people.

4 Congressional District 16, which is mostly south of  
5 here, Highlands, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Martin  
6 Counties, is overpopulated by 119,000 people. So it will  
7 need to lose 119,000 people to come to equal population.  
8 And Congressional District 23, which includes parts of  
9 Ft. Pierce and extends down to Broward and a little bit of  
10 Dade County is underpopulated by 20,000. So that district  
11 will need to gain territory in order to pick up additional  
12 people.

13 And we see the same pattern for Senate districts.  
14 Here Senate District 15 in Indian River County is very  
15 close to equal population; whereas, District 27, which  
16 includes parts of Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Palm  
17 Beach Counties is overpopulated by approximately 20,000  
18 people.

19 And with the House districts, again, we see the same  
20 pattern of district growth as you go from one district to  
21 another.

22 All of the information that we have covered this  
23 morning is available on the Senate and House web sites,  
24 some of it is also available on the handouts that were  
25 provided. And I would encourage members and the public to  
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1 access the web sites, which are being continually updated  
2 with information that is pertinent to the redistricting  
3 process.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Guthrie.

5 Ladies and gentlemen, as I stated earlier we will be  
6 using speaker cards which look like this. In order for you  
7 to speak you must have filled out one. You can get these  
8 from the staff at the sign-in table. If there is anyone  
9 who wishes to speak, please fill out one of these cards.

10 You'll also notice that if you have one in the lower  
11 right-hand corner there is a number. We will not call you  
12 by name but by number so that each one will know  
13 subsequently who is next and you'll be prepared to speak  
14 and it makes things move a little bit better.

15 Please remember also that in order to ensure that  
16 everyone has an opportunity to speak, we will limit your  
17 speech to four minutes or less. Of course we will also  
18 welcome written submissions, if you wish to present those,  
19 and any handouts you might have. Please just lay them at  
20 the podium or next to the podium on the table there and we  
21 will make sure that those get entered into the record and  
22 distributed.

23 All right, we are ready to start and we will start in  
24 ascending order. So, No. 1, if you are ready, Speaker  
25 No. 1, you are recognized to make your presentation.  
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1 Please state your name also when you come, and if you  
2 represent someone you can say that also.

3 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Senator Webster, members. My  
4 number is Allen Miller, I am from St. Lucie County. I  
5 would like specifically to thank you for giving us both the  
6 opportunity and the information for us to participate in  
7 this redistricting process. This is a marked improvement  
8 from the process in 1991.

9 At the end of the process I hope that you will give  
10 special recognition and thanks to the staff members of the  
11 redistricting office. Their help with the FREDS software  
12 and the information they have provided is truly  
13 exceptional, and with the number of us currently asking for  
14 support at their point in the offices they are clearly  
15 serving above and beyond the call of duty.

16 I do have one process comment, which is why I brought  
17 that up. I would hope that you would recognize that for  
18 most of us the FREDS system is not intuitive. And, as  
19 such, perhaps you can get the web site to either have a  
20 PowerPoint presentation or perhaps a short video of one of  
21 the members actually walking through how to use it. I  
22 spent some time trying to figure out what a lasso was, but  
23 I got it.

24 I have reviewed the comments to date and I believe  
25 from my assessment there are four central comments to all  
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1 plans; compactness, communities of interest, minority  
2 protection relative to the court order, and the infamous  
3 fairness doctrine.

4 There are two central problems that we all face;  
5 first, the population must be equally divided, and, second,  
6 there must be some kind of an agreement on the terms that I  
7 outlined above. Given the diversity of Florida I do not  
8 think universal agreement is achievable and I do not envy  
9 you your task, but I appreciate the fact that you are doing  
10 it.

11 Having said that, I would like to present a case for  
12 St. Lucie County. In 1991 we were one of the black holes  
13 where the lines were driven together and they were not in  
14 the community interest of St. Lucie County. While we have  
15 been extraordinarily fortunate to have the delegation that  
16 we did have and that we now have, we are split into three  
17 House districts and two Senate seats. While I recognize  
18 the total population is the basis for your work, I would  
19 like you to look at what that split actually means to us in  
20 terms of accountability.

21 As of August 31st, the supervisor's records indicate  
22 that we have 39,000 voters in Senator Posey's district,  
23 83,000 in Senator Pruitt's district, 22,000 in  
24 Representative Macheck's district, and 20,000 in  
25 Representative Mayfield's district. There are 79,000 in  
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1 Representative Harrell's district.

2 Our problem simply is that Representative Harrell must  
3 lose approximately 21,000 people. And the population push  
4 on us from Collier County is to their east, from Osceola  
5 County is to their south, and from South Florida is to  
6 their north. That pretty well means you are definitely  
7 going to have to change our lines because we are probably  
8 not going to move to accommodate your lines.

9 What we hope is that as you work on the lines you will  
10 seriously consider one Senator and two Representatives for  
11 St. Lucie County.

12 With regard to the U.S. Congressional district, we  
13 would also like to request compactness rather than  
14 convenient gerrymandering. All three Congressmen have been  
15 responsive, at least in my experience, to requests for help  
16 specifically from St. Lucie County; however, our entire  
17 county would be better served if our boundaries were  
18 included in one Treasure Coast seat. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. No. 2.

20 MS. LURKEN: Senator Webster, and members, my name is  
21 Joy Lurken and I come to speak on behalf of the American  
22 Association of University Women. As the Florida state  
23 director of public policy, I live in the Florida  
24 Congressional District 15, Senate District 27 and House  
25 District 80. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak at  
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1 this hearing for reapportionment.

2 I oppose separation of Indian River County in  
3 redistricting and feel the county should maintain a -- be  
4 maintained compact for the best interest of the community.

5 I live in the beach area and I could not vote for the  
6 state Senator candidate that the majority of Indian River  
7 County residents voted for in the last election. Many  
8 voters went to the polls and were unfamiliar with the  
9 candidates on the ballot. This is because of  
10 gerrymandering by self-interest groups.

11 I was with the Women's Consortium in Tallahassee when  
12 the reapportionment committee was instructed by computer  
13 experts on how a simple click of the computer mouse could  
14 get information on how many Republicans, Democrats or  
15 Independents were in a small area, and how easily a  
16 district could be changed. I object that taxpayers' money  
17 was spent on this encouragement of gerrymandering.

18 The American Association of University Women of  
19 Florida are part of a consortium to have an impartial  
20 committee to select districts in the future because we feel  
21 each county in the state should be maintained as a compact  
22 unit. We ask that Indian River County remain compact to  
23 respect the vote of each person. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 3.

25 MS. GARDNER: Good morning, my name is Bea Gardner and  
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1 I live in Vero Beach. I'm not here to talk about the  
2 politics of changing or redistricting or reapportionment.  
3 I'm here to discuss the fact that I believe that there is  
4 such a commonality to people that live in a particular area  
5 that they will not have that same commonality for somebody  
6 that's representing let's say Palm Beach and coming up to  
7 Vero Beach, as opposed to the commonality that we have got  
8 with the surrounding counties.

9 So it makes me feel like from a common sense  
10 standpoint that we could look at this somewhat like we look  
11 at the electoral college.

12 Now for those of you that are familiar with what  
13 happened in the last election, I am just going to refresh  
14 you on a few facts. There were approximately 600 counties  
15 that were taken by Al Gore. There were approximately 2500  
16 counties that were taken by George Bush. Now if we start  
17 to change things around in the state of Florida where we  
18 are losing the commonality of the area that we are in, and  
19 start to reach out just to redistrict and change because of  
20 a population we are going to end up with most of the  
21 representation populated around the population cities.

22 For instance, if we are doing this strictly based on a  
23 census, and I am guessing that's why we do this every ten  
24 years, obviously it is going to change the amount of people  
25 that are represented by each one of you. But does that

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1 mean that because you choose to live in an area that's less  
2 populated that your voice is not as important as the next  
3 person's?

4 So I'm going to leave it at that and tell you that I  
5 think that things are just fine the way they are and if  
6 there is any redistricting it should fan out from a central  
7 point in a particular district and not start getting funny  
8 about little areas and slivers here and there. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 4.

10 MS. ADAMS: Chairman Webster and committee, I am Norma  
11 Adams and I'm from Brevard County. I would like to commend  
12 the committee for giving their time this summer to bring  
13 this information to us and listen to us as we speak.

14 Thank you for not having any pre-drawn maps. Now we  
15 know that you have not made up your mind and you are really  
16 listening to us. Therefore, I have a few suggestions.

17 Being from Brevard County, I would like to discuss the  
18 Florida House first. I would like you to move District 30  
19 further north into more of Sun Tree and Viera, because  
20 that's where the population has shifted to, and extend  
21 District 31 to include the Brevard south beaches. That's  
22 Mitch Needelman's district. And Melbourne has much more in  
23 common with the south beaches than any of the other part of  
24 Brevard County. Many of the people in the south beaches  
25 work in Brevard County and go back and forth every day.

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1 Now we are -- in Brevard we are particularly proud of  
2 our legislative delegation. And we don't want to lose any  
3 of them. Please do not allow that new Congressional  
4 district to come over into north Brevard and chop off a  
5 part of north Brevard so we lose Randy Ball and it could  
6 possibly preclude him from running for Congress. Please  
7 don't do that to us.

8 (Laughter.)

9 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: That's my mom.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MS. ADAMS: Thank you very much, and I hope you will  
12 take these, this under consideration. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 5.

14 MR. SIMON: Senator Webster, members of the committee,  
15 good morning. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to  
16 speak to you this morning. My name is Hank Simon, I'm the  
17 Deputy Mayor of the city of Palm Bay, and the president and  
18 CEO of the Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce.

19 I'd like to give you a little history about Palm Bay.  
20 Palm Bay in 1991, when we did this the last time, was a  
21 smaller city. And we talk about counties that have been  
22 divided three ways, well we are a city that's divided three  
23 ways. We have neighbors on different sides of the street  
24 that have different representatives.

25 And I think the reality is that because of the way it  
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1 was districted the last time, our community feels  
2 insignificant in Tallahassee. We make up 20 percent of one  
3 district, 23 percent, about 28 percent of another one. If  
4 we continue to do that, we truly do not have  
5 representation.

6 The city of Palm Bay is about 80,000, a little over  
7 today. It was 79,900 at census time. We have grown about  
8 2500 people since then. If we continue to grow at the rate  
9 that we are, by the time we do this again in ten years the  
10 city of Palm Bay will be approaching the size of what we  
11 are talking about for a district today, about 130,000  
12 people. At full growth the city of Palm Bay has planned  
13 and when the houses are built will be a city of  
14 approximately 240,000 people.

15 At this time we would like very much that when the  
16 redistricting takes place at the House level that we would  
17 like to be a significant part of one district, and if we  
18 have to be divided to be the significant part of two  
19 districts. With 80,000 that would be 40,000 people in each  
20 one of the districts. To be divided three or four ways  
21 again does not make sense nor does it give continuity to  
22 our community. It is hard enough to get a consensus of  
23 two, it is almost impossible to get a consensus of three  
24 when you are the insignificant part.

25 Finally, in closing, we are part of a single district  
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1 for our Senator, Senator Posey is our Senator. We would  
2 very much like that to stay the way it is, and we feel that  
3 we are part of our Senate district. Again, thank you very  
4 much for the opportunity to speak this morning.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 6.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning, Senator Webster, and  
7 members of the committee. It is a pleasure to be here with  
8 you-all and to have the opportunity to speak to you. We  
9 really appreciate you taking the time out of your schedule.  
10 I'm Joan Johnson, I'm here as a citizen. I'd like to make  
11 some comments based on my experience as Indian River  
12 County's representative to the Treasure Coast Health  
13 Council.

14 The Health Council represents five counties, including  
15 Palm Beach -- let me read them because I'll forget one of  
16 them, Indian River, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Okeechobee and  
17 Martin Counties. And I can tell you from my experience on  
18 that committee that Palm Beach has major problems the rest  
19 of us don't. And the resources for, from the Council which  
20 come from Federal and State funds and grants from various  
21 places virtually all go to Palm Beach County. And we would  
22 not like to see ourselves aligned with that sort of thing  
23 where we find our interests here are subjugated to the  
24 interests down there.

25 We feel we get pretty good representation where we are  
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1 as part of the group further north and would like to see  
2 you continue that.

3 So I thank you for this opportunity. I have submitted  
4 some written comments which are more explanatory, but thank  
5 you for the opportunity.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 7.

7 MR. LONG: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my  
8 name is Bud Long, I'm the chairman of the Brevard County  
9 Democratic Executive Committee. I'd like to speak today as  
10 a resident of Merritt Island in north Brevard County and  
11 also as a resident of House District 29.

12 I believe that this committee has been presented with  
13 a great opportunity to unite the members of the community  
14 with a long-standing tradition of cooperation. I am  
15 speaking of the cities of Rockledge and Cocoa, which have  
16 worked together for the benefit of the entire community of  
17 central and north Brevard for close to 100 years. As it  
18 currently stands these two cities are separated by district  
19 boundaries in both the State House and Senate.

20 In House District 29, which is currently short by  
21 about 15,000 voters and is also going to be an open seat in  
22 the next election, I believe this committee has the perfect  
23 opportunity to bring Rockledge into that district and  
24 better serve the people of the community with united  
25 representation. I have also spoken with several members  
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1 and leaders of both cities and I believe this is what they  
2 feel is in the best interest of their community.

3 Given the historical and demographic ties that these  
4 two cities share, I urge this committee to consider this  
5 request and would also ask that you consider uniting Cocoa  
6 and Rockledge into Senate District 18. This community is  
7 currently split on this level as well.

8 In closing I would like to submit that this committee  
9 again seek public input once preliminary district maps have  
10 been completed. I applaud your efforts here today to  
11 include the public, but I feel this process would not be  
12 complete without including public input at all levels of  
13 this very important process. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 8.

15 MR. SULLIVAN: Dear Chairman and members of the  
16 reapportionment committee, I am the Reverend Samuel E.  
17 Sullivan, the senior pastor of the St. Paul African  
18 Methodist Episcopal Church in Ft. Pierce, Florida, and also  
19 serve as the chairperson of religious affairs for the  
20 St. Lucie County Chapter of the NAACP.

21 We have a Representative in Alcee Hastings who has  
22 proven to be an effective and concerned leader for our  
23 community. He is our positive voice for effective change  
24 and progress. All across our district people have  
25 expressed that they once again feel a part of the political  
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1 process.

2 Representative Hastings has taken the time and effort  
3 to keep us abreast on issues which are important to our  
4 longevity as partners in the political process. We do  
5 believe that in his presence in Washington, D.C. we have a  
6 voice that will speak on our behalf.

7 We are concerned that if Congressional District 23 is  
8 redistricted, our voice will no longer be heard. Not only  
9 will our voice be silenced, but also our political presence  
10 will be greatly diminished and our voting power will be  
11 severely limited.

12 In view of the past turmoil surrounding the  
13 presidential election, this process of the reconfiguration  
14 of our district will be viewed by some as an attempt to  
15 undermine the progress we have already made by enacting  
16 unnecessary changes to our district. This will surely  
17 serve as a catalyst to reopen the wounds up, suspicion,  
18 mistrust and alienation that a lot of the members of the  
19 minority community are feeling when it comes towards the  
20 political process.

21 I come with a request that in all fairness to our  
22 district that you leave it alone and please allow our voice  
23 to be heard. Thank you so much for your time.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. No. 9.

25 MR. DICKERSON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and  
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1 members of the reapportionment committee. I'm Herbert L.  
2 Dickerson, a retired educator from St. Lucie County. It is  
3 a pleasure for me to address you this morning on behalf of  
4 Representative Alcee Hastings, District 23.

5 Representative Hastings has been a tremendous asset to  
6 our community and District 23 for minority citizens. I  
7 sincerely hope that you are guided by the overriding  
8 principle of fairness in considering new district lines.

9 As a minority, I recognize one party controls the  
10 Legislature and the Governorship in our state, but I do not  
11 want your consideration or actions to be a partisan  
12 exercise. I am of the opinion that you should consider  
13 that the best -- what is best for each Representative in  
14 District 23. Do not allow someone to develop lines or chop  
15 up our district to fit some agenda by the controlling  
16 party. Minorities want fairness in the process and  
17 fairness in action. Simply put, the good ol' boy days are  
18 over.

19 The need here is for an equal opportunity employment,  
20 equal access in educational institutions, and a tolerance  
21 for prescription drugs and health benefits for all.  
22 Representative Hastings has been one who carried these  
23 concerns to Washington on our behalf. Without his presence  
24 in Washington, I feel that these concerns and others will  
25 be diluted.

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1 As an African-American voter in District 23, and a  
2 witness to what happened to our last presidential election  
3 I must say that the process -- that process cannot repeat  
4 itself. Every vote must count. Ladies and gentlemen, you  
5 have an awesome responsibility to see that that process  
6 stands.

7 If district lines are to be redrawn, I urge you to put  
8 criteria in that the lines will be drawn fairly, allowing  
9 for minority input and minority representation. Unless the  
10 process is fair it will be hard for us to convince our  
11 families, our friends and our communities to participate in  
12 the political process. Thank you for your time.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 10 is moving to  
14 another slot, so No. 11.

15 MR. ALLEN: Mr. Chairman, committee members, my name  
16 is John Allen and I am a voter and a citizen of Rockledge,  
17 Florida. This morning we have heard about communities of  
18 interest here in Indian River County but -- and how the  
19 lines have been separating those communities of interest.

20 Well, we have got a community of interest that seems  
21 that every single district line falls into and that's  
22 Rockledge. Rockledge is also an up-and-coming community  
23 and the community of interest that I am concerned about is  
24 Cocoa. Cocoa and Rockledge both share a lot of historic  
25 perspective -- a lot of historic perspective and a lot of

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1 neighbors.

2 My family, I've got three sisters, two of us live in  
3 Rockledge, two of us live in Cocoa, and we are represented  
4 by three House districts and two Senate districts. Folks,  
5 we live nine miles apart.

6 The other thing that I would also like to touch on is  
7 the ability for us to come back and have another public  
8 hearing with your preliminary drawings. I think it is real  
9 important that we also get the opportunity to have input on  
10 that very important decision. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 12.

12 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, and members of the  
13 committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak today.  
14 My name is Edmond Cannon and I represent the unions of  
15 Florida.

16 The key words that I have in mind for redistricting is  
17 compactness and commonality. I would definitely like to  
18 see Indian River County to be completely in one district.  
19 If necessary, I would like for us to incorporate part of  
20 St. Lucie or Martin County, if necessary.

21 From a physical standpoint when I look at the map of  
22 redistricting, I hope to see a lot of rectangles and not  
23 snakes and octopuses. Thank you.

24 (Laughter.)

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 13.

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1 MR. TURNER: I'm Sid Turner, I'm from Indian River  
2 County. I strongly disagree with the majority of local  
3 officials who have voiced their opinions according to an  
4 article in the press journal on Monday that it is in Indian  
5 River County's best interest to stay put.

6 I do agree that Indian River County should remain in  
7 the 15th Congressional District, but should not include  
8 Brevard, Osceola and Polk Counties. The 15th district  
9 should consist of the Treasure Coast counties of Indian  
10 River County, St. Lucie and Martin Counties, counties in  
11 the area with common interests.

12 Also, Palm Beach County should not be included. This  
13 would ease the fear by some local officials that our county  
14 would lose the influence it has in Congress by unfairly  
15 competing with much larger counties.

16 Both the State Senate and House district should be in  
17 District 15, not 32. Recently the House district is tied  
18 into Orange County with little knowledge or interest of  
19 problems in our local communities. The State Senate in  
20 part controls our beaches all the way to District 21 in  
21 Stuart. Representatives and Senators should not be  
22 permitted to adjust Congressional boundaries in order to  
23 safeguard their seats.

24 It is not in the best interest of our county to lose  
25 78,999 residents through redistricting, as reported by  
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1 Senator Webster from Orlando, as you heard earlier this  
2 morning, as chairman of the state reapportionment  
3 committee. We need local representatives, not ones from  
4 Orlando, to make decisions affecting local problems.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 14.

7 MS. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, thank you for being with us  
8 today and members of the committee. We welcome you to  
9 Indian River County. My name is Fran Adams, I'm County  
10 Commissioner here, and we are just proud to have you in our  
11 fair county.

12 We are particularly proud of our delegation in  
13 Tallahassee and the relationships that they have all built  
14 with us here in the county, and the efforts of  
15 cooperativeness that they have shown and worked with  
16 you-all, with all our projects.

17 I am here today because I don't envy where you are.  
18 And after hearing what I have heard so far, our budget  
19 hearings tonight are going to be a lot of fun. I won't be  
20 nearly as stressed after listening to what you are going  
21 through.

22 But I want to suggest to you that instead of taking  
23 the butcher knife that you just push and pull and pare just  
24 a little bit. Tweak it, I know you are going to need to.

25 This is one of the difficulties and problems that have come  
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1 about as our growth has just burst throughout the state,  
2 and our county included. If you would, don't get violent  
3 with your actions with the knife, just push and tweak. We  
4 like what we have.

5 To be honest, everybody wants to have their county  
6 whole so that they can have a representative in  
7 Tallahassee. We don't want to be split so bad that we  
8 don't have any representation. We are fortunate that we  
9 have excellent representation with all of them up there.  
10 We are proud of the leadership that this delegation has  
11 given to us and particularly in bringing you-all here.

12 So tweak, don't cut too hard. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay, thank you. No. 15.

14 MR. WHITE: Good morning, Chairman Webster, honorable  
15 members of the committee, thank you for allowing us to talk  
16 today. My name is Tom White, and I'm the mayor of the city  
17 of Vero Beach.

18 Last city council meeting we passed a resolution that  
19 I would like to read into the record. It is Resolution  
20 No. 2001-41. A resolution of the city council of the city  
21 of Vero Beach, Florida, petitioning the State Legislature  
22 to allow the entire city of Vero Beach as well as all of  
23 Indian River County to remain wholly within the boundaries  
24 of what is now known as Congressional District No. 15.

25 Whereas, Congressional District 15 is comprised of  
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1 Indian River County, Brevard and parts of the Osceola and  
2 Polk Counties, and,

3 Whereas, based on data from the 2000 census  
4 Congressional District 15 will have to be reduced in size  
5 by approximately 80,000 residents, thereby changing its  
6 boundaries, and,

7 Whereas, Indian River County is the second largest  
8 county within the Congressional District 15 and is only 30  
9 miles from the primary population center of the  
10 Congressional district, thereby giving Indian River County  
11 a large percentage, approximately 16 percent of the overall  
12 population of the district, and,

13 Whereas, it is desirable for Indian River County to  
14 remain a large percentage of any Congressional district to  
15 ensure local elected officials or residents have  
16 substantial input into Legislature proposals and can obtain  
17 a fair share of constituent services and,

18 Whereas, any change in Congressional boundaries would  
19 likely result in Indian River County being a lesser  
20 percentage of the population of a new, altered  
21 Congressional district with a proportional loss of  
22 influence in the legislative process,

23 Now therefore be it resolved by the City Council of  
24 the City of Vero Beach, Florida that the City of Vero Beach  
25 does hereby petition the State Legislature for the entire  
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1 city of Vero beach as well as all of Indian River County to  
2 remain wholly within the boundaries of what is now known as  
3 Congressional District 15. Once the redistricting process  
4 is complete city staff is directed to transmit this  
5 resolution to all state elected officials representing  
6 Indian River County and the relevant committees of the  
7 State Legislature.

8 And, again, thank you for your time and for being in  
9 our lovely city. And thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for coming. No. 16.

11 MS. CURTIS: Good morning, Chairman Webster, and  
12 members of the committee. I am Marti Reno Curtis, and I'm  
13 president of the St. Lucie County League of Women Voters.  
14 We have an active membership of over 50 women who are also  
15 an intricate part of the business community in many ways.  
16 As a reminder, let me state that the League is a  
17 nonpartisan organization. One of our main goals focuses on  
18 educating the voter on issues of local concern. And I  
19 think that warrants repeating. We work to educate the  
20 public, we study issues, and we take a position on issues.  
21 We do not support any candidate or political party.

22 I am here today to represent our Florida League's  
23 position on redistricting, but also to pass along the  
24 firsthand knowledge that we have gained through our work  
25 with candidates and the voters. We see three major  
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1 problematic areas with the process as it exists now. And  
 2 while I am at this point repeating some things, I am also  
 3 reinforcing some of the statements that have been made.  
 4 Number one, looking at St. Lucie County's district as  
 5 an example, it is evident that the supervisor of election's  
 6 function is greatly complicated by the county's  
 7 configuration.  
 8 Number two, this also points to expenses incurred by  
 9 the candidates to adequately reach their constituency.  
 10 While running for election is basically an expensive  
 11 procedure, it is compounded unnecessarily with meandering  
 12 districts.  
 13 Number three, most importantly from the League's point  
 14 of view is the confusion these districts cause the voter.  
 15 Many people don't even know their representative because  
 16 the representative is living in a county unrelated to their  
 17 community's needs.  
 18 We know that all of you are really busy and everyone's  
 19 energy is spread out in order to make a living first and  
 20 foremost. Therefore, not many voters have the ability to  
 21 concentrate time and energy towards assurances of proper  
 22 representation. That's why we look to you today during  
 23 this time of redistricting work. Please work diligently on  
 24 what is best for our citizens, and not what is best for  
 25 your political party.  
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1 That is a very tall order, and everyone will nod in  
 2 compliance, but we will look for results to show your  
 3 earnest effort. Maybe people over politics already exists  
 4 and you can show us this time around how well the  
 5 democratic system is operating. Thank you very much.  
 6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 17.  
 7 MS. SPRAGUE: Thank you. Thank you for coming,  
 8 members of the committee. My name is Rita Bianco Sprague.  
 9 I live in Vero Beach in the county of Indian River,  
 10 Congressional District 15, Senate District 15, House  
 11 District 80. However, some of my friends in Indian River  
 12 County live in Senate District 27 and House District 32.  
 13 Yet we all share the same goals.  
 14 There are 40 small counties in Florida. And instead  
 15 of respecting our size, we have been cut up in pieces to  
 16 become even smaller. In Indian River County, the east side  
 17 does not vote the same as the west side. And the southeast  
 18 is represented by the Treasure Coast while the northeast is  
 19 represented by the Space Coast.  
 20 Historically, we have more in common with the Treasure  
 21 Coast, more in common with Hutchinson Island, than with  
 22 Titusville. A small county such as ours should remain  
 23 compact, as is suggested by the National Council of State  
 24 Legislators. And the goal of preservation of a community  
 25 of interest should be absolutely prevailing.  
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1 Our integrity should be upheld within our borders and  
 2 we should be the same voting district. We should not be  
 3 split. And the Treasure Coast should be our cohesive  
 4 voting area. Thank you very much.  
 5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 18.  
 6 MR. REUTER: Thank you, I have some statements here  
 7 that I am going to leave on the desk. I appreciate getting  
 8 a chance to visit with you and appreciate the hearing being  
 9 held here. My name is Cliff Reuter. Amongst my other  
 10 duties I am also chair of the Democratic Executive  
 11 Committee in this county.  
 12 And I have lived here in Vero Beach for over 30 years.  
 13 We live on the barrier island. That puts us in  
 14 Congressional District 15, in Senate District 27 and in  
 15 House District 80. Today a tentacle from Martin County  
 16 slips all the way up to Indian River County and swallows up  
 17 our beaches. That's Senate District 27. I have much more  
 18 interest and commonality with the people in the mainland of  
 19 Vero Beach than I do the people down in Stuart. I love the  
 20 people in Stuart, but I like these even better.  
 21 Do we really need to have those little trails in  
 22 Fellsmere? The little zip down the road to Wabasso to pick  
 23 up the few Democrats that somebody wanted out of that House  
 24 district? I don't think so. I think we need to have a  
 25 compact area, I think we have to have one House district  
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1 and one Senate district.  
 2 Think about it, wouldn't it be nice if our  
 3 Congressional district was made up of the three counties  
 4 that make up the Treasure Coast. That would allow us to  
 5 vote for a representative in Washington who would actually  
 6 understand our interests.  
 7 It would also join together counties of similar size  
 8 and related concerns. At present Indian River County is  
 9 included in the Brevard County Congressional district with  
 10 its far larger population base and its space program. The  
 11 scale is a little bit different.  
 12 We are interested in citrus, tourists and the problems  
 13 of senior citizens. Even given our differences, the other  
 14 two Treasure Coast counties have much more in common with  
 15 us. As long as these three counties were not sliced and  
 16 diced, but were kept in one unit, we would have almost the  
 17 population base to make a Congressional district. Then  
 18 neither big Brevard or humongous Palm Beach will be able to  
 19 call a tune for us here in Indian River County.  
 20 To recap we need to have our community as one rather  
 21 than gerrymandered to shards in order to keep politicians  
 22 elected. Thank you.  
 23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 19.  
 24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Our good friend.  
 25 (Laughter.)  
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1 MR. SENDLER: Well I'll tell you, Senator, last time I  
2 was in this room it was -- it could have been for a  
3 sentencing. So this is a lot better, it is a lot better  
4 time to be here now.

5 First of all, I'd like to welcome you to Indian River  
6 County, our small apartment community. I was lucky enough  
7 and fortunate enough to serve with many of you, not all of  
8 you, but many of you. And I still hold you in very high  
9 regard and hold you as very good friends.

10 I got compelled today to come here to really talk  
11 about the process, not necessarily district lines and  
12 things like that. I know that some of you, I think Senator  
13 Webster, Senator Pruitt, maybe a few others remember back  
14 in 1990 what the reapportionment process was like. Of  
15 course, they didn't tell us where our offices were until we  
16 were six months into our legislative term. But we dealt  
17 with locked doors, we dealt with doors with keypads, we  
18 dealt with staff who we were not able to engage the  
19 legislative process on our own with the software without  
20 staff being there. Very, very partisan, extremely  
21 partisan.

22 And I can tell you here today these folks that you see  
23 beside me and behind me, I believe that I was the only one  
24 that testified that was a resident and taxpayer of Indian  
25 River County on behalf of our legislative district last  
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1 like to pay our bills, we like to vote, but more than  
2 anything else we like to have good representation as an  
3 extension of our citizens and our community in Tallahassee.  
4 We are very happy with our two representatives, and our  
5 Senator. And this one we have got to keep an eye on every  
6 now and then.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. SENDLER: We are very happy with Senator Pruitt,  
9 too. But -- we are very happy with the representation that  
10 we have had, we are very fortunate and we are very thankful  
11 to have had that.

12 But more than anything else I just wanted to let  
13 you-all know, some of you who don't have the experience of  
14 the process of what it was last time, being one who is  
15 giving you the testimony not as what I thought it was  
16 about, not what I speculate it was about, but I was  
17 actually there. Many times on the bottom I was the doormat  
18 that there was there being walked over, but I was actually  
19 there.

20 And it is certainly heartening to see the difference  
21 that you have engaged, Senator Webster, under your  
22 leadership and, Representatives, under your leadership that  
23 we have here before us today. With that, thank you very  
24 much, and we hope you enjoy the rest of your visit in  
25 Indian River County.

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1 time around.

2 And I want to congratulate and thank you for the  
3 opportunity and exposure that you have provided, as you can  
4 see by the turnout here today, as you can see by the  
5 turnout of the number of members, the number of the staff,  
6 the information, Mr. Chairman, Senator Webster, that you  
7 provided, the openness that you provided. Granted, it may  
8 not be a perfect system, but I don't know anything in  
9 government that is perfect. But certainly you are all men  
10 and women of honor.

11 I have seen some of the hearings that you have had.  
12 Senator Webster, I saw you on CSPAN, I think it was. I was  
13 flipping through the channels, and I said, Well, I said,  
14 Senator, he sure did jump up there pretty quick; didn't he?

15 But I saw some of the criticism that you-all are  
16 taking as a committee as a whole and some of the stinging  
17 comments. And I just felt compelled to come here today to  
18 say those who don't learn lessons from history are  
19 condemned to repeat them. And I am here to tell you that  
20 it is a profound difference of what it was ten years ago as  
21 to where it is today.

22 And I simply on behalf of myself and the citizens of  
23 our county, I want to say thank you, number one, for taking  
24 the opportunity to visit our little, small farming county  
25 that we have here. We take great pride in our county. We  
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1 Senator Klein, you will take good care of them in Palm  
2 Beach this evening, I hope. Good luck down there. Thank  
3 you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 20.

5 (Pause.)

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 20.

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 21.

9 MS. CLEM: Good morning, members. My name is Kay  
10 Clem. I'm the supervisor of elections for Indian River  
11 County. I want to thank you-all for coming here to Indian  
12 River County. I want to thank our legislative delegation  
13 for bringing you here, but I would like to ask that as you  
14 move south today that you not share with anyone what a  
15 beautiful community we have.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MS. CLEM: I would like to kind of preface my remarks  
18 this morning by saying that I certainly don't envy you your  
19 position. I worked for 11 years in the State Legislature,  
20 starting with Senator Dempsey Barron, and ending up with  
21 Senator Toni Jennings, primarily in the Senate rules  
22 committee. I worked in the 1980 census and reapportionment  
23 and I have tried to block most of that from my memory, it  
24 was just a horrible experience. So I don't envy you.

25 But I have a new hat now as supervisor of elections,  
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1 and I think my prior experience gives me a different  
2 perspective on what we are doing.

3 I want to thank you for the job that was done last  
4 time as you drew lines through Indian River County. While  
5 some people aren't happy with them, we as supervisors are  
6 happy if they follow street lines and don't split up  
7 subdivisions. We only have one subdivision that was split,  
8 and everything else followed lines that we could follow.

9 I think we are in a whole new era now that's going to  
10 be a lot easier for us as supervisors. I think about half  
11 of the state has purchased software that makes it far  
12 easier for us to get the information that you give us and  
13 turn it around quickly. In fact, this week we have been  
14 drawing county commission lines and school board lines.  
15 And it only took me a day and a half to come up with about  
16 seven different plans. So no more will we be coloring in  
17 little maps late at night trying to meet the concerns that  
18 we have to meet.

19 But I would like to say that I understand from some of  
20 your previous hearings that you are kind of looking at  
21 giving us that information in July. And I understand that  
22 process, and I understand how we get to that point. But I  
23 think this year it is particularly important that we try to  
24 speed that process up.

25 As I see it, we get the information from you in July,  
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1 we quickly realign our precincts so that they aren't split,  
2 and then we send voter cards out to all the people in  
3 Indian River County. And here we are going from about 38  
4 precincts to 60 as a result of our growth, and going to  
5 touch screen technology for voting. So everyone will get a  
6 voting card saying where they need to go to vote.

7 My guess is, and I don't mean to be a pessimist, but  
8 many of those cards will be trashed because they will think  
9 they are political mail. And there is a lot of political  
10 mail in July, as you know. When that happens, they are  
11 going to show up at the wrong precinct on that election day  
12 when the entire nation is going to be watching Florida.  
13 And we are going to have people going to the wrong  
14 precinct.

15 Now the Election Reform Bill has a provision in it  
16 that says that you can't even vote a provisional ballot if  
17 you are at the wrong precinct. So people are going to have  
18 to go to another precinct to vote. We are going to try to  
19 get that fixed in the glitch bill. Senator Posey, we will  
20 be back before you.

21 But I think that's something that you need to keep in  
22 mind. There is going to be a camera in every precinct in  
23 Florida I think. And we don't need to have people showing  
24 up at the wrong precinct. And anything you can do to help  
25 us with that we sure would appreciate.

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1 And, again, let me thank you for the Election Reform  
2 Bill. Senator Posey, he got very tired of me during the  
3 legislative session, but it is an excellent, excellent  
4 package and we really appreciate your help. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 22.

6 MS. COSTA: My name is Jean Costa. And, by the way, I  
7 wanted to say that I think it is great that you people  
8 spent the time and effort to listen to so many people  
9 express opinions and whatever. But I do want to be brief  
10 and I am going to be very basic and simple about this.

11 But what I want to say is I am a longtime registered  
12 Republican, but I am also a voter whose rights as a voter  
13 are important to me. And I want to make a point that I  
14 believe should be important to every other voter in our  
15 state. To date our state has been gerrymandered by  
16 whatever party was in power, and I have a really fine map  
17 here that proves it. Given the new chance to set up  
18 Congressional districts, let us consider fairness to the  
19 voter as our primary objective this time around.

20 My county of St. Lucie alone shows a current division  
21 beyond any human logic except politics. Please this time  
22 in fairness to the voter let us really strive toward, as  
23 nearly as possible, equal population in each district,  
24 respect for county and municipal boundaries as much as  
25 possible, and set up districts so that they make sense in  
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1 the way they relate to one another, and adopt standards of  
2 fairness to all culturally diverse groups involved.

3 Feel free -- and I mean this to the audience also --  
4 feel free to have a look at the maps that I have brought,  
5 particularly anything relating to the Treasure Coast.  
6 Let's not have another version of the unfairness to the  
7 voter.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 23.

9 MS. WOOD: Good morning, and welcome. We are so glad  
10 you are having this meeting here. I did go to one in 1990,  
11 I suppose it was, in St. Lucie County. So it is very nice  
12 to have this in our backyard.

13 I am -- my name is Gloria Wood and I am a resident of  
14 the barrier island. But I don't feel that that is my home,  
15 I feel that Indian River County is my home. All of the  
16 organizations that I belong to, most of them include Indian  
17 River County in their title.

18 And we have meetings all over the county. So I am a  
19 little bit aware of some of the problems that occur in  
20 Fellsmere, certainly along Route 60 and south to the  
21 Highlands.

22 I really feel as one of the little people because I  
23 have no clout, I have not held public office, I have not  
24 been a part of the workforce here, I am just one of the  
25 retirees who brings money into the county. And the only  
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1 clout I have is my vote. And when it is diminished because  
2 I have to see two or three or four different people who  
3 happen to represent the area in which I live or in which  
4 things are happening that affect me, then I am a little bit  
5 concerned.

6 So my one focus here today is to ask you to keep this  
7 county as a compact unit. We are not two different tribes,  
8 one on the beach and one over here, we are one people. And  
9 we would like you to keep it that way. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 24.

11 DR. MCGARVEY: Good morning. Technology is always a  
12 problem for us folks who sit in chairs. But good morning,  
13 Senator Webster, and committee, Representatives, Senators.  
14 I'm Dr. Craig McGarvey. I'm an elected member of the  
15 Indian River County School Board.

16 I want to thank those of you in the delegation that I  
17 have worked with personally, who have visited our schools.  
18 Representative Mayfield, who served previously on the  
19 Indian River County School Board, you are well versed in  
20 the issues that face our county. And I want to thank you  
21 for the time, the diligence, the effort you have shown us  
22 in your service to the citizens of Indian River County. I  
23 also want to thank the rest of the delegation for being  
24 here today.

25 I want to share with you some numbers which will help  
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1 you in understanding how Indian River County relates to the  
2 other counties bordering us to the north and south. And it  
3 is interesting what the citizens do when trying to select  
4 the schools and trying to relate to the counties which they  
5 have their students -- or their children attending.

6 The Indian River County schools are receiving more  
7 students from the north, from Brevard, than we are from the  
8 south, St. Lucie. To latest count, we have 50 students who  
9 are attending Indian River County schools from Brevard.  
10 And we have at this time 30 students who are attending from  
11 St. Lucie. The numbers will probably grow. And if this  
12 trend which we are seeing continues, then we will relate  
13 more to Brevard County.

14 The students are obviously coming from south Brevard,  
15 but we have them as far north as Palm Bay. And these are  
16 parents who are driving their children to our schools. So  
17 what we are seeing is that relationship developing more  
18 with the northern part of our county, the southern part of  
19 Brevard.

20 Now that has certainly implications for the  
21 Congressional district. I am concerned, and as a member of  
22 the Republican Executive Committee and the precinct  
23 chairman in Indian River County for many years, I am  
24 concerned about Congressional District 15.

25 I have also worked diligently for Dr. Weldon in the  
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1 past, from his initial election to the present. I am  
2 concerned about the possibility of Indian River County  
3 being split. This would definitely be detrimental to our  
4 relationship as a county with the Congressional District  
5 15.

6 Furthermore, with the House the way it is presently  
7 configured, I think we do have an excellent relationship  
8 with St. Lucie. And to change that at this point I also  
9 think would be detrimental to the county as a whole. To  
10 further split Indian River County would be detrimental to  
11 the Republican strength of this county.

12 I would also like to say that we have spent a  
13 considerable amount of time developing the relationships  
14 with our present Representatives and Senators. We have a  
15 legislative breakfast that will be coming up very soon.  
16 Many of you have attended that in the past, and I want to  
17 offer that invitation to you again. We will be discussing  
18 these things again when we meet with you. Not only do we  
19 have budgetary concerns, but we also have district line  
20 concerns.

21 And as someone who is very interested in the work that  
22 is going on in our county, I want to commend Supervisor of  
23 Elections Kay Clem for the work she is doing internally to  
24 help make sense of the gerrymandering which has gone on in  
25 the past.

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1 And, by the way, as the historians on your delegation  
2 know, Eldridge Gerry, from the very proud town, the  
3 birthplace of the American Navy, Marblehead, Massachusetts,  
4 of which I am a native --

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

6 DR. MCGARVEY: -- thank you very much. Eldridge  
7 Gerry, and gerrymandering is the correct pronunciation of  
8 the word.

9 I want to caution you, please, do not gerrymander  
10 Indian River district any more than it presently is. Let's  
11 hold the line, let's keep the strength, and I thank you  
12 very much for your time.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 25.

14 MR. FLETCHER: Good morning. Craig Fletcher, city  
15 council, city of Vero Beach. And I couldn't have made a  
16 better choice of location for this meeting than you did.  
17 This is a great town, not that I am prejudiced or anything,  
18 but thank you for coming.

19 My family, I have seven generations in the state of  
20 Florida. I have five generations living right here in  
21 Indian River County so I have seen a few lines drawn. My  
22 father, my grandfather, my brother were all in politics.  
23 It is a genetic defect that shows up at about age 50, we  
24 all run from or to some office.

25 You have heard most of what I wanted to say so I'll  
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1 make this pretty short. I am also a member of the Treasure  
2 Coast Regional Planning. That means Palm Beach, Martin,  
3 Indian River, St. Lucie Counties. And the point I'm going  
4 to make here is once a month I go down to Palm Beach for  
5 meetings of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning. And I  
6 love Palm Beach, it is a great place to visit, and shop, as  
7 my wife tells me.

8 My point is that there is an incredible culture  
9 difference between the Vero Beach/Indian River culture and  
10 the Palm Beach culture that I think we need to maintain.  
11 Is that the politically correct way to say it? Yes, I  
12 think so.

13 I personally would not like to see the representation  
14 split such that we would become a subset of Palm Beach or  
15 something near that. It is very good the way it is. We  
16 have great representation, which as some of you I have  
17 spoken with in Tallahassee when I went up for legislative  
18 week, I want to, if at all possible, suggest to you that  
19 there are some criteria that you-all use I know to do these  
20 drawings of these lines. I think the criteria that I  
21 personally and my fellow council members would urge you to  
22 use would be the compactness of these districts. I believe  
23 of all the criteria that you have, the compactness is  
24 really, really the most important.

25 As we have heard, some of these cities are split up  
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1 the -- was caused by the people from Vero Beach. I was  
2 down here last night from Brevard County watching the Vero  
3 Beach Dodgers play the Brevard County Manatees.  
4 Unfortunately we lost the first game of the playoffs and  
5 so --

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. ZELLER: -- tonight is another night. I wanted to  
8 thank you, thank the committee on redistricting for giving  
9 us a chance to speak to you-all and also keeping it public,  
10 keeping it open. You, I feel, are doing the right thing by  
11 getting the input from the people within the various  
12 counties, districts, et cetera.

13 Also, I commend you-all for, contrary to what some  
14 people are saying, that you don't come before us with  
15 pre-drawn maps, Roger, you are doing the right thing. Maps  
16 come later on, once you decide where the guidelines and  
17 boundaries are going to be for the various counties,  
18 various districts, et cetera.

19 I do urge you, however, since we do have effective  
20 representation in Brevard County and since Brevard County  
21 is a very important -- of course all the counties are  
22 important in the state of Florida -- but Brevard County  
23 even more so since we have the Space Coast there and since  
24 we have the second largest port in the state of Florida, in  
25 fact probably one of the largest in the United States, that  
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1 into three districts; cities that are split into three  
2 districts. And I believe that is just intolerable. Do  
3 your best, please, to use the compactness guide as your  
4 foremost and leading profile of what to do.

5 And thank you very much for coming.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Right now we are going  
7 to take a five-minute break for our court reporter. We  
8 will be back in exactly 5 minutes.

9 (Brief recess.)

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: The next person to testify is  
11 No. 26. No. 26.

12 MR. ZELLER: Mr. Chairman, fellow members of the  
13 committee, thank you for allowing me the chance to speak  
14 with you. My name is Harry Zeller, I'm from Brevard  
15 County. Even though I am associated with numerous  
16 organizations there, I speak for myself. I am here with my  
17 wife. We have been involved in the arena of government,  
18 political arena, if you will, for numerous years and so  
19 therefore we have kept abreast of what has been taking  
20 place. A lot of my good friends here are Senator Posey,  
21 Representative Allen, Representative Ball, and a  
22 hardworking individual, Mitch Needelman. Each of these  
23 individuals are very effective in what they are doing.

24 If by any chance you catch me yawning during my  
25 slight, rather small presentation, please forgive me, it is  
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1 we need this effective representation. So I urge you, keep  
2 the representation that we do have.

3 Yes, as someone pointed out, tweak the lines a little  
4 bit, clean up the boundaries so that there are no inroads,  
5 so that we as people working in the organization know where  
6 the boundaries are rather than looking for a little line  
7 here or a little line there.

8 Also, if you believe what the newspapers are saying,  
9 which obviously you shouldn't always, they pointed out that  
10 the committee is somewhat stacked with more Democrats than  
11 there are Republicans. True or not true, I urge that we do  
12 have equality, that we do have equality in deciding the  
13 boundaries of the new districts. And I urge you to lay  
14 aside any political, any partisanship and make certain that  
15 the best interests of the constituents are addressed.  
16 Thank you for your time.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 27.

18 MR. MADEROL: Mr. Chairman, committee, my name is  
19 Anthony Maderol and I work with the American Federation of  
20 State, County and Municipal Employees. I'm here today  
21 representing one of our members, his name is Larry Merritt  
22 and he works for the Department of Health in Ft. Pierce.  
23 He actually wasn't able to make it here today as they are  
24 understaffed today so I have a little something to say for  
25 him.

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1 I want to thank the committee for holding this public  
2 hearing. I would note, however, that this hearing, like  
3 the vast majority of your hearings, is being held during  
4 the middle of the workday when it is not convenient for the  
5 working public to attend. I would ask that as this process  
6 moves forward you try to make it more open and more  
7 accessible and that all information is easily available to  
8 the public.

9 And I think that you are doing a bit of that posting  
10 information on the Legislature's web site. We would like  
11 any maps made available to the legislative leadership also  
12 to be posted on that web site.

13 I am also concerned that the most accurate census data  
14 be used during the redistricting process. News reports  
15 indicate that over 200,000 Floridians were missed by the  
16 2000 census. As we know, the minority groups are  
17 disproportionately represented and undercounted. Florida  
18 was one of only four states not to provide precinct-level  
19 data to the census bureau. I would suggest that to  
20 compensate for these possible attendant problems the  
21 Legislature consider using adjusted census data, which is  
22 more representative of the minority population.

23 I would hope as the Legislature begins the redrawing  
24 process, that you would honor traditional redistricting  
25 principles such as keeping together communities of  
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1 I would simply leave you with this, that many years  
2 ago I used to serve as a county commissioner. And I know  
3 how important it is that citizens have as easy a trail of  
4 finding out who their respective representatives are. And  
5 I think given the four requirements for Constitutional  
6 approval of these districts, we should always keep in mind  
7 that given the small number of people who actually vote,  
8 given the infinitesimal number of people who actually  
9 directly participate in governmental affairs in the  
10 legislative side, that we make it as easy as possible for  
11 them to understand their districts.

12 It is kind of ironic that by the time they learn these  
13 districts and their incumbents and have relationships with  
14 them, the ten-year process is over with and you have to  
15 start over again. I know you are challenged, I know that  
16 you will do a good job, and we appreciate our  
17 representation from St. Lucie County, and keep the good  
18 work up. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 30.

20 MR. DUPONT: Chairman Webster, members of the  
21 committee, thank you for coming to Vero Beach. I, myself,  
22 live in Indian River County, I live in Sebastian, recently  
23 moved there. We are affiliated with Brevard County, the  
24 Space Coast, Osceola, which I think has a lot in common  
25 with Indian River County and Vero Beach. I lived for 53  
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1 interest, maintaining the test of contiguousness,  
2 compactness, and respecting of course county and municipal  
3 boundaries.

4 Thank you very much for allowing me to testify.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 28, No. 28.  
6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 29.

8 MR. METT: Good morning, Chairman Webster, members of  
9 the Legislature, thank you for having this hearing. My  
10 name is Michael Mett, I'm from St. Lucie County, I'm here  
11 representing the county Republican Party Executive  
12 Committee, of which I am a member.

13 We would suggest that you make an effort, given all  
14 the new software that's available, to in reducing the size  
15 of District 81, which needs to be reduced by apparently  
16 22,000 voters, that an effort be made to take the southern  
17 portion of District 80 and the northern portion of District  
18 78 in order to provide St. Lucie County with a more compact  
19 and cohesive area.

20 I realize this is always easier said than done, and I  
21 think that we are blessed with the improvement in the  
22 process this time around. And I want to congratulate each  
23 and every one of you, including the former members of the  
24 Legislature who have assured that this is a more rational  
25 process.

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1 years in St. Lucie County; namely, Ft. Pierce. I have  
2 relatives in Palm Beach County. I don't know too much  
3 about Martin.

4 I feel that the interests in this county, and the  
5 neighboring county Brevard are pretty much the same. The  
6 economies I know are far different in St. Lucie and Palm  
7 Beach County; namely, St. Lucie County, having lived there  
8 for 53 years. I would like to see you not get involved in  
9 the southern county, counties that are south of here.  
10 Remain our affiliation with Brevard, Osceola. Thank you  
11 very much.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 31.

13 MR. LIGGETT: Thank you, Chairman Webster, patient  
14 members of the committee. My name is Malcolm Liggett, I  
15 live in Vero Beach. I'm representing my association. I'm  
16 the president, executive secretary, and sole member of the  
17 South County Committee on Brevity in Public Discourse.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. LIGGETT: I am an advocate who will speak only for  
20 the Congressional district and national Congress. I have  
21 two allies, besides those that have spoken here. One is  
22 the Palm Beach Post published today a new area code for a  
23 Congressional district, only they call it area code 772.  
24 They have a map on Page 12A of today's Palm Beach Post,  
25 three counties; Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin. I  
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1 recommend that for your consideration.

2 There is another reason for selecting those three  
3 counties, and that is, the 19th Judicial Circuit has four  
4 counties including the three I just mentioned, and  
5 Okeechobee. That would make for some continuity.

6 Also, I would say, slightly in a negative tone, that  
7 this would give me the absence of hearing about the Space  
8 Coast every time there is a Congressional function. The  
9 only connection we have with the Space Coast is we pay  
10 taxes. We do see something that goes up in the air, it is  
11 my tax dollars.

12 There is one other thing that gives us some  
13 continuity, it is not all inclusive. I am also a baseball  
14 fan, not that you care, but this new district would bring  
15 us four genuine losers; the Dodgers, the Mets, the Expos  
16 and the Cardinals. I thank you for your patience.

17 (Laughter.)

18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 32.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I feel compelled to tell the  
20 people, especially ones that aren't familiar with this  
21 area, that if you got here early and parked around the  
22 courthouse or any of the street parking, there is a  
23 three-hour limit. And I went out during the break and  
24 moved my car and, sure enough, it had been chalked. So I  
25 suggest that if anybody needs to move their car, they might

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1 want to run out and do it.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 32.

3 MS. GINN: Good morning, Chairman Webster, and members  
4 of the committee. My name is Caroline Ginn, and I am the  
5 chairman of the Indian River County Board of County  
6 Commissioners.

7 I want to first thank you for this extraordinary  
8 example of democracy in action. It is really wonderful  
9 when you open yourself up, and we try to do that in Indian  
10 River County. And it is just such a wonderful example I  
11 think to everyone here. Thank you for that.

12 Well I think it really is best if Indian River County  
13 remains a part of District 15. I like the representation  
14 we have. It is excellent. I have come to know the men who  
15 represent us, how they operate in Tallahassee, in  
16 Washington, and I could not be more impressed with their  
17 processing, with their integrity, with their access to the  
18 public. It is something to behold. And I really want us  
19 to remain where we are.

20 And I want to say that no matter who is in office, it  
21 really doesn't matter. We have a lot in common with those  
22 we presently are aligned with. Indian River County is a  
23 small county. We are just 545 square miles, 113,000  
24 population. And those of us who serve in local government  
25 understand our uniqueness, our low density, our low rise,

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1 our uncluttered, unspoiled beaches clear out to our salt  
2 marsh and our emphasis on conservation.

3 Indian River County is a plum. And, yes, I do mean a  
4 political plum. Please don't allow that political plum to  
5 be carved up. It is a political plum for fund-raising, for  
6 workers, and for those who understand the political process  
7 as witnessed today with the crowd that you have seen here.

8 What are these rumors that I have heard of dividing  
9 Indian River County and District 15 or sending us south?  
10 Have we lost our senses? What of divide and someone else  
11 will conquer and what of sending us south to become a  
12 forgotten sister?

13 And Craig Fletcher is exactly right. I also serve on  
14 the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, our problems  
15 are not the same as those to the south. I do not believe  
16 dividing District 15 or sending us south bodes well for our  
17 current elected representation, whether state or federal.  
18 It is something you need to consider. It may destroy the  
19 strength of the Republican party in Indian River County,  
20 and it may ultimately cost us a Republican Congressman in  
21 the future.

22 District 15 does relate very, very well to Brevard  
23 County. In fact, with the Space Coast high-tech  
24 development that is there now, most of you know about that,  
25 and with what we have developing in our north county, we  
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1 are on our way to developing with south Brevard a high-tech  
2 corridor. Nothing could please us better than to remain  
3 with that and to have single representation there.

4 Lastly, we consider District 15 to be a part of the  
5 crown jewel, which is Indian River County. And I ask you,  
6 respectfully, not to fool with the crown jewel. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 33.

8 MR. HART: Good morning, Mr. Chairman Webster, and  
9 members of this prestigious committee. It gives me great  
10 pleasure to come, even though I had to fight around this  
11 morning to decide whether to come or not. But I say I hate  
12 for this committee to come to Indian River County and  
13 didn't realize black folks live in Indian River County.

14 As I traveled around the state and even around the  
15 country, not too many folks know black folks live in Indian  
16 River County. So as I was coming and I was here listening  
17 about the drawing of the lines and the concern -- as you  
18 know, my name is Victor Hart, Sr. And I will make this  
19 clear because you could easily get in trouble.

20 I'm not here speaking for the NAACP. I just happen to  
21 be the local president of the Indian River County branch of  
22 the NAACP. I know some other folks some years ago speak  
23 before a committee of your type and they didn't identify  
24 themselves properly, and they got in trouble. So I don't  
25 want to make that mistake.

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1 As I come to you this morning I'm saying that our  
 2 concern, not only as a member of the Indian River County  
 3 but also a member of the NAACP, and on our state level they  
 4 are looking at this whole redistricting. And I know  
 5 probably you are familiar with the amount of cases we have  
 6 hanging around the courthouse now concerning the last  
 7 election and so forth. And I don't want to see us get into  
 8 that on this district level as far as the proper  
 9 representation for the blacks in this district.

10 And I'm looking at, number one, let me say this, I  
 11 would like to see our local state representatives in our  
 12 districts stay together, stay as they are. We have a good  
 13 relationship with our state Representative as far as what  
 14 goes on in Tallahassee.

15 But if we have to, when we look at our Congressional  
 16 district, I would like to see Indian River County start in  
 17 the north and go south and if you have to, take in the  
 18 north part of Palm Beach if you have to take that in. And  
 19 I feel like if you do that, you'll be within the bounds of  
 20 the racial boundary lines as far as the legal part that the  
 21 redistricting is concerned with.

22 But I would like, regardless of what you have to do,  
 23 is to kind of put us together, make us four or three  
 24 counties, whatever, but let us be a compact county because  
 25 right now we have about three different precincts in our  
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1 to keep the entire space complex in one portion of that  
 2 split, preferably the southern split. Do not split the  
 3 complex, it is important to keep that together. It is  
 4 important that that have one representative who can speak  
 5 for it and not be divided by other counties.

6 Within our House and Senate districts, I was not here  
 7 for the reapportionment ten years ago, but I see the  
 8 results. I can't quite fathom why Senate District 15 is  
 9 way down in St. Lucie County. It really needs to come up a  
 10 little bit more north and perhaps encompass a little bit  
 11 more of Indian River.

12 Nor can I comprehend what happened with District 32,  
 13 which stretches from Orange County down through Brevard  
 14 into Indian River and has precincts that have absolutely no  
 15 registered voters. It was just pieces left over, from what  
 16 I understand, of those that were in power at the time who  
 17 behind closed doors said, I want here, here and here. And  
 18 this is what's left over, so we will throw it at that time  
 19 to Senator Posey and let him live with it.

20 It is unreal, they need to be tweaked. There are a  
 21 number of cities in our county that are split by districts.  
 22 In some cases because of diversity, this probably is very  
 23 necessary. The population is huge and diverse from low  
 24 income to way up upper income, education and otherwise.  
 25 And it may be necessary to keep them split. But is it  
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1 county some of us can't vote in.

2 And when I get the ballot, it have these precincts  
 3 that you can't vote in if your precinct number don't show  
 4 on that ballot. I hope when this next election comes one  
 5 number will include all of us as far as Indian River County  
 6 is concerned. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 34.

8 MR. MARINO: Mr. Chairman, Senators, Representatives,  
 9 I'm Ray Marino. I'm chairman of the Republican party of  
 10 Brevard County. I came down here to listen today so I  
 11 don't have a prepared statement, but listening there are  
 12 some comments I would like to make.

13 First of all, I have been around a fair number of  
 14 years as you can tell from the bald spot and the gray. And  
 15 I have seen many redistricting processes in many states.  
 16 And this by far is the most open and comprehensive I have  
 17 witnessed. And I wish to commend you for that.

18 Now moving on to what affects us, Congressional Seat  
 19 15, I believe, is best served by remaining with the  
 20 contiguous counties of Indian River, Brevard and Osceola.  
 21 Polk County seems a little bit out of place as part of 15,  
 22 it really has nothing in common with the other counties.

23 Although I recognize you have numbers to fill, and  
 24 your responsibility is based on numbers, so if it should  
 25 become necessary to split Brevard and 15, then I urge you  
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1 necessary to go down the center of the street with one side  
 2 being in one district and one being in another? So I  
 3 recommend you look at that.

4 And overall, in the words of a great philosopher, if  
 5 it ain't broke, don't fix it. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 35.

7 MR. LOCKWOOD: Mr. Chairman, and members of this  
 8 committee, it certainly is indeed an honor for us to have  
 9 you here. I don't want to be redundant, you have heard a  
 10 great deal. I don't envy you with 20-some-odd more of  
 11 these to go, but certainly the state of Florida will  
 12 benefit for the time and energy that you have spent on our  
 13 behalf.

14 I am Tom Lockwood, I'm the current chairman of the  
 15 Republican Executive Committee. I have had this job for a  
 16 long period of time. I have also been fortunate to serve  
 17 as the 15th Congressional representative to the State  
 18 Executive Board of the Republican party.

19 And during that time I have gotten to know the  
 20 district very well. And I can only tell you this, that in  
 21 my opinion, the 15th Congressional District has just  
 22 outstanding representatives. And we do see very similar,  
 23 similarities between our counties. As the chairman of our  
 24 county commission stated so well, we like things the way  
 25 they are, we like our community, and we like our neighbors  
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1 and we like our representation.

2 So in your evaluation when you have time to sort out  
3 all of the things that were discussed today as well as  
4 Dr. McGarvey stated so well, we would like to leave things  
5 as they are. And we very much appreciate you coming today.  
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 36.  
8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 37?

10 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Webster, and all the  
11 members of the committee, my name is Charlie Frank  
12 Matthews. I'm the president of the St. Lucie County NAACP.  
13 I also serve as the state area director for the NAACP all  
14 the way to Key West. So, you see, I have got to follow you  
15 some other places and I hope we can have a friendly  
16 meeting.

17 First of all, let me talk about the five-point plan,  
18 and it is going to be very short. Confusion certainly is  
19 not what the citizens want to see any longer. We have not  
20 only been confused over who represents us, but we have been  
21 confused in who stays in office and how long and term  
22 limits and what have you. But we have -- certainly as the  
23 first area of interest in our five-point plan we certainly  
24 want to go on record for you to be fair, be considerate, be  
25 flexible to the process. We watched this process over the  
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1 last years of your involvement.

2 Second, we want to say that the special interests  
3 should not be first all the time.

4 Third, there is a hidden population out there that we  
5 need to remind you about, and that's the population of the  
6 handicapped, blacks, economically deprived and those who  
7 unfortunately are returning back home or to our communities  
8 from our prisons of Florida.

9 Number four, it is the residents that's known as,  
10 Other. We want you to consider them such as the Haitian  
11 community, the Mexican community, the Hispanic community,  
12 and others.

13 And five, of our five-point plan, we want this to  
14 be -- we want to be able to look at the final touch or the  
15 final draft or the final product. And I think coming to  
16 this type of hearing, we hear one thing of one way and we  
17 hear people saying, Make certain you keep us together,  
18 don't confuse us, I can tell you that in my travels around  
19 sometimes the center line in a community is divided. Your  
20 neighbor is being represented by one and on the other side  
21 of the street, that group is being represented by somebody  
22 else and they are neighbors, they all live on the same  
23 street. I don't know how that ever happened.

24 But those are the kinds of errors that did happen in  
25 the last redistrict and we certainly as the NAACP and  
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1 others who have been in the leadership -- and we have a  
2 committee that we put together back in January of 2001, a  
3 study commission, to look at possibly making  
4 recommendations. And we anticipate on making those  
5 documents available. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 38.

7 MS. HOWARD: Good morning. Chairman Webster, members  
8 of the redistricting committee, my name is Lou Howard, I am  
9 an advocate. I thank you, gentlemen and ladies, for coming  
10 and listening to us today.

11 I am currently the Senate president of the Florida  
12 Silver Haired Legislators, Inc. Last year I was the CEO,  
13 this year I am just the second term Senate president.

14 If you don't know what the Florida Silver Haired  
15 Legislators do, we are advocates for seniors primarily but  
16 all Floridians in general. Some of the accomplishments  
17 that we have had have been with the establishment of the  
18 Department of Elder Affairs, which is extremely successful.  
19 The original person was the director, E. Stanley Lipscomb,  
20 he is now one of our trustees. I also am with the American  
21 Cancer Society, and I am on the board of directors as an  
22 advocate. Also, with the Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of  
23 Commerce with the governmental districts.

24 Please remember one thing when you make your  
25 decisions, common sense. The 15th Congressional District,  
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1 I have represented a leading organization for seniors for  
2 almost eight years. A very, very good relationship that  
3 includes Brevard, Indian River, Osceola and 13 precincts in  
4 Polk County. Some of those precincts in Polk County are  
5 separated in the middle of the street where one side of the  
6 street has one Congressional district, the other side of  
7 the street has another Congressional district.

8 My husband and I and my family came here in 1962.  
9 There is a tremendous difference in the personality of each  
10 one of these counties. Keep these things in mind and let's  
11 have a little common sense about this. When I looked at  
12 Congressional District 3 which goes from Jacksonville and  
13 includes Orlando, I would say that there is something wrong  
14 here. All of those counties don't have the same  
15 personalities. Let's keep this in mind. It is very, very  
16 important, just keep some common sense. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 39.

18 MR. NELSON: That lady just took my speech. I'm  
19 R. Duke Nelson, I happen to be a city commissioner for the  
20 great city of Ft. Pierce, Chairman of the Indian River  
21 Black Caucus, member of the Democratic Executive Committee,  
22 and I would like to on behalf of this area, to include our  
23 great friends here in Indian River County, welcome to the  
24 area.

25 The thing that I think is most important here, as I  
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1 indicated earlier, was the fact that common sense is very  
2 important. And that's something that you-all have a lot  
3 of. But before I get into the text of my talk, let me  
4 assure you that the lady that came up a few minutes ago and  
5 told you about tickets being put on your cars out there, if  
6 you had come to Ft. Pierce in St. Lucie County, you  
7 wouldn't have those problems.

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. NELSON: See, I could call down to the police  
10 department or sheriff's department and, you know, take care  
11 of that because I have already told my clerk, All you have  
12 got to do is tell the people where to go to pay the  
13 tickets. We fix all tickets in Ft. Pierce. There is no  
14 problem.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. NELSON: Compactness, common sense, equity,  
17 fairness, insuring every vote counts, and, of course, doing  
18 unto others what others, what you would have others do unto  
19 you, all wraps itself up into the area of common sense.

20 We have a really unique populous that is growing and  
21 it is becoming more and more diversified here in the state  
22 of Florida. There is approximately 16 million of us.  
23 There are a growing number of Hispanics, a growing number  
24 of blacks, there is a growing number of handicapped, the  
25 elderly that's amongst us. Common sense requires that we  
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1 because of the way we had gerrymandered the lines --

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

3 MR. NELSON: -- to preclude having the opportunity to  
4 vote for this man. And I select people based on what I  
5 think they are worth and contributed to the will of the  
6 people. Use common sense. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Okay, members, and,  
8 ladies and gentlemen of the audience, that concludes the  
9 public testimony. We have at the other meetings, if so  
10 desired, first starting with the members of the delegation  
11 of the region if anyone had comments we have allowed those  
12 to be made, and then any other members of the committee  
13 after that.

14 So, first of all, would there be any members of the  
15 regional delegation that would like to make a comment?  
16 Representative Mayfield, you are recognized.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MAYFIELD: Mr. Chairman, I just want to  
18 say thank you, thanks for coming. I think it has been a  
19 very informative session. I think we had some very  
20 high-quality input here, and I think everybody feels they  
21 have had an opportunity to say what they think.

22 This is -- I didn't experience that process in 1990,  
23 but I can tell you that this one, I don't see how you can  
24 make it much better and more open. I just want to thank  
25 you for chairing the committee and the hard work you have  
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1 address these people. We should be looking at the fact  
2 that minority access is uniquely important to all of these  
3 people.

4 If we don't do things to include all of our people,  
5 all of our people, in the democratic and political process,  
6 we are not doing our duties as elected officials. We are  
7 not doing our duties as keepers of the people's trust.

8 I had a unique experience during the last election  
9 when Senator Pruitt was running. Him along with other  
10 members of the delegation I think has served us well. Ken  
11 is a Republican, I am a Democrat. I can assure you that I  
12 haven't seen one person that I admire more than I admire  
13 this particular man. His tenacity, his concern for people,  
14 very, very important. His willingness to work to go the  
15 extra mile to get people together, very important.

16 I had the confusion factor when the supervisor of  
17 elections came out and printed a pre-election ballot. It  
18 had Ken listed down there with all the other things. I  
19 don't mind telling my people how to vote because people ask  
20 me, Who will you vote for? Who should I vote for? I said,  
21 This is the man, along with many others along here, too,  
22 you know, but this particular man, you know.

23 I had to tell this person -- first of all, and I  
24 called him up at his office. I said, Your name is not on  
25 the ballot. He said, You can't vote for me. It was  
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1 put into it. Thank you, sir, and thanks for being here.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Posey?

3 SENATOR POSEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to  
4 thank you for bringing the committee to Senate District 15,  
5 number one, and I want to thank everyone in the audience  
6 who took the time to attend today and to participate today.  
7 And we really and truly appreciate your participation and  
8 your input. You made me very proud of my constituents  
9 today, thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Harrell, you are  
11 recognized.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HARRELL: I, too, would like to thank  
13 everyone here in the audience specifically for coming on a  
14 weekday, coming to present your testimony. I want to  
15 assure you that as we make these decisions we will be  
16 keeping your interests in mind. As a member of the local  
17 delegation here I feel that we need to listen to the people  
18 of the area and consider what their concerns are, and what  
19 is important to them when these decisions are made. And I  
20 want to assure you that we will be doing that for you.  
21 Thank you very much for being here today.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Klein.

23 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, again,  
24 being from Palm Beach County, and I heard a few comments  
25 today about Palm Beach County, we certainly in Palm Beach  
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1 County are very interested in making sure that -- and we  
2 have hearings later today and also tomorrow in Palm Beach  
3 County, and the general feeling down there is they want to  
4 make sure that the people in that area have people that  
5 live in those communities. So it is very much of a  
6 reciprocal kind of thing.

7 We all have different issues and some similar issues,  
8 but I think there is a strong feeling in different parts of  
9 the state as we go around to make sure that local  
10 representation is truly local.

11 Mr. Chairman, also I would like to reiterate what  
12 someone brought up in terms of the use of the software. As  
13 the public is familiar this is just the process where there  
14 is just the opportunity to talk in general about what's  
15 going on. The software that is available to the public is  
16 something that you can submit your drawings to the members  
17 of the delegation.

18 But there are a couple things I'd like to point out.  
19 Number one, it has been suggested, and I would like to  
20 follow up on this, when we have these public hearings, and  
21 we still have a number of them left, if we can have our  
22 staff set up the computer in advance, maybe an hour ahead  
23 of time, and publicize that and allow the public if they  
24 have questions about how the software is being used to come  
25 forward and get it shown to them. I think that would be  
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1 very useful.

2 And also, as I said, keep in mind as the process goes  
3 forward once the maps, once the committee process gets  
4 going and the maps are drawn in draft form the public's  
5 role is to keep involved in that process. And I think I  
6 heard some members of the public suggest the idea of coming  
7 back to communities, maybe on a regional basis, to make  
8 sure -- it is difficult for people to get to Tallahassee.  
9 And I think it is very helpful for the public to have the  
10 opportunity once again, once the preliminary maps are drawn  
11 or some ideas are presented for the public to have that  
12 opportunity as well.

13 So, Mr. Chairman, if I could just submit those for  
14 consideration, I would appreciate that.

15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. I will say that we made  
16 a determination I believe two committee meetings ago to  
17 begin with help at the meetings. And therefore we have  
18 John Guthrie who would be glad to help afterwards, we are  
19 going to make it a little more formal once we get it  
20 together. But we will be offering FREDS help, which is an  
21 acronym for our software, to any member of the public one  
22 hour before the committee meeting.

23 SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. Chairman?

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Yes, Senator Klein.

25 SENATOR KLEIN: I appreciate that response. And,  
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1 also, if we can make sure that we publicize that  
2 availability in the future for all the up and coming  
3 meetings so the public is well aware of that opportunity.  
4 I think it is a great way for the public to make full use  
5 out of the software.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Yes, I just checked with  
7 Mr. Guthrie, he has an E-mail ready to go out about that.  
8 Representative Jennings, are recognized.

9 REPRESENTATIVE JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10 Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to make some  
11 comments. A couple issues that I wanted to address, some  
12 that were addressed here this morning and a couple that  
13 were not.

14 A lot of the folks that are here that have come out to  
15 participate in this forum, and to have, I believe there  
16 were 39 speakers to come from this region, I think we have  
17 shown, in the hearings that I have gotten a chance to  
18 attend, that the morning hearings are the ones that elicit  
19 the least amount of testimony. And I don't want to say  
20 that these people's testimony and their time and effort has  
21 not been lauded, but that we could have a lot more  
22 opportunities for more people to make comments in these  
23 hearings if we continue to have them at different times, if  
24 they are later in the evening and/or on Saturdays.

25 I know -- I can't speak to the time ten years ago  
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1 because I wasn't here, as a matter of fact I was in college  
2 at that time, but I do remember there being some hearings  
3 on Saturdays as well. I hope that the process does not  
4 have some of the negative things it had such as locked  
5 doors and offices and all the things I have heard the  
6 rumors about from ten years ago, and I don't think we will.  
7 But I hope that we can learn some good lessons from that  
8 last set of hearings by making it more expansive.

9 Also, in response to the comments that the supervisor  
10 of elections made, which I thought were very interesting  
11 and very much on point, I'm not sure if we thought about or  
12 talked about it, this is an enlightenment for me and  
13 hopefully for the others on the committee, our scheduled  
14 timing for getting this process over, which I know that it  
15 is the most political of political processes.

16 But as supervisors of elections are making decisions  
17 all around the state of Florida and people are being  
18 educated, if nothing else came out of the 2000 election we  
19 know we need to have our electorate the most educated as we  
20 can so they can be aware of the time process, what  
21 precincts they are in, they can make comments, they can be  
22 involved with the supervisors of elections, I don't know if  
23 we are going to do this time or not, Mr. Chairman, but if  
24 they are not allowed to vote in their precinct that they  
25 are aware where the precincts are. So if we can maybe get  
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1 that educational process or at least some time frames going  
2 on.

3 I think I support Senator Klein's comments about  
4 getting people familiar with the software as soon as  
5 possible, because I think we can make this different not  
6 only from '90 but from any other election in history in  
7 Florida if we do it right and we give the most expansive  
8 opening breadth of opportunity for all the people of  
9 Florida.

10 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Other members? Yes, Representative  
12 Machek, you are recognized.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MACHEK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 I appreciate everybody coming to the hearings today.  
15 I do represent a part of St. Lucie County. I have kind of  
16 taken the heart out of it, and also Okeechobee and  
17 Highlands and Martin and Palm Beach Counties. So I get a  
18 real cross-section of the state. And I think probably my  
19 district is one of those that certainly is going to be  
20 adjusted somewhat because of the distance of it.

21 But I just wanted to say that I represent all those  
22 counties as if they were only one county. And it has  
23 always been a pleasure because there is such a diversity of  
24 people, the retired, agriculture, whatever it might be,  
25 they are all included into my district.

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1 But I just wanted to say thank you for coming and I'm  
2 sure that these committees that are here today listening  
3 will certainly do the job that they are charged to do and I  
4 think the state will be a much better state when the  
5 redistricting process is completed.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Allen.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
8 Represent District 32, which has been described in  
9 different ways today. It might be an ugly baby but it is  
10 my baby and I like it.

11 (Laughter.)

12 REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN: One of the things that I found  
13 in District 32 is that while it might have come from a  
14 strange origin, it certainly has grown as the district and  
15 as the region of central Florida has grown. The central  
16 Florida region has many connections socially, economically  
17 in the issues that we face. And Indian River, Brevard and  
18 Orange Counties find themselves many times facing those  
19 issues together. And I have been very impressed with the  
20 dynamic members of this community that have come forward.

21 I appreciate the comments today too from the citizens  
22 of the Fellsmere area, and also the regional and Indian  
23 River County Commission, and other citizens that have  
24 communicated to our office that they like the teamwork  
25 approach that we have with District 80 in representing you  
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1 in Tallahassee.

2 I appreciate the members of this committee taking the  
3 time to locate here for one of their hearings. I think it  
4 speaks well of the -- this is an important region. Many  
5 times the Treasure Coast area is seen as connector between  
6 other major regions and it is nice to see that you chosen a  
7 connector as a place to connect a place for testimony of  
8 the citizens.

9 So depending on how the numbers actually crunch out  
10 and the needs, I look forward to continuing to represent  
11 Indian River County. And hopefully that will be the way it  
12 turns out. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Any other member?  
14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: The hearing is adjourned.  
16 (Hearing adjourned at 11:20 a.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF FLORIDA:  
3 COUNTY OF LEON:

4 I, JULIE L. DOHERTY, Court Reporter, certify that I  
5 was authorized to and did stenographically report the  
6 foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and  
7 complete record of my stenographic notes.

8 DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

9 \_\_\_\_\_  
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